/153 cont./

286 [177] The hammock (máka), as the Spanish name already indicates, is a borrowed article and not generally distributed in the Andean cultures. Among the Paez it is used only for children. Its dimensions, with 100 meshes, are about 100 by 100 centimeters. It is hung up with agave or horsehair ropes, which are looped through the upper and lower rows of meshes and then tied to house posts.

[415] The berry sieves (tása) are present in almost every household. They are about 30-60 centimeters in diameter and are stretched inside a round wooden frame. The meshes are formed by means of the "fishnet knot" (Fig. 34d /see p. 256 /). This draws together very closely and is then scarcely recognizable in its structure.

283 The sling (ísut) is made with various techniques. For its manufacture the dried fibers of the agave leaf are used just as they are obtained when the leaf is stripped. A knot is made at the tip of the bundle of fibers, and it is then divided into two parts. Both are turned by hand in the same direction and then twined by rotation in the opposite direction. This produces /154/ -- conditioned by the naturally thickening material -- a two-strand rope of steadily increasing strength. Since it is twisted only by hand, it threatens to lose its tightness with greater thickness. Hence, after about 50 centimeters, the hank is divided into three parts and plaited for about the same length in the manner of a three-strand braid.

286 ● 284 To make the net for holding the sling stone (Fig. 29 /see p.255 /), the three plaiting strands are divided into seven strands which, in each case, are separated from the plaited part by a simple finger knot. From each of these knots two double strands continue, which, put diagonally, are tied together by a double finger knot.

The length of the net part is about 20 centimeters. At its end it changes back to a three-strand braid by way of a simple finger knot. It should be noted in this connection that the middle strand at the beginning of the braid is caught in the threads of an adjacent knot. This prevents the plaiting from loosening up as it goes into the net and losing its tightness. The same

/154 cont./

284 reinforcement is found at the other end of the net in the transition
286 to the braid part. The further procedure up to the completion of the sling corresponds to the beginning. At one end a sliding loop is tied by means of a knot, which, when the sling is used, is drawn over the middle finger.

d) Plaiting

283 The technique of plaiting is practiced among the Paez only
285 in plaiting bands for making straw hats (šwá) and for making three-strand ropes. The latter are plaited by the women in various lengths and strengths from agave fibers in the normal form of the three-strand braid. There are no plaited baskets, sieves, fans, bands, etc. of any kind among the Paez.

294 The shape of the Paez hats seems to imitate those of the
285 whites. It is the same for men, women, and children. They are made only by the men. The dry leaves of the šyéts reed, which are first torn into strips about one centimeter wide, serve as material. To be worked up they are then divided once more by being torn lengthwise into five to ten narrow strips from one to two millimeters wide. The quality and value of the hat depends on the fineness of these strips, for the finer the plaiting strips are the more waterproof and durable the hat is. It /155/ is made from a single plaited band (čemótč) sewed together in spirals -- starting from the center of the hat.

The plaiting of the band is done without any aids, in the form of diagonal plaiting with 11 strips (Fig. 33 /see p.256 /). At the start of the work they are bent in the middle and thus used double in such a way that the upper side of the reed leaf is on the outside. The second strip is inserted into this initial bend at right angles and likewise bent. This is done alternately until all 11 strips have been worked into a band approximately six to ten millimeters wide. The further plaiting work is continued with the double strips. For this the first double strip is always bent from the outside downward toward the center, in order to be drawn over the second, under the third and fourth, and over the fifth and sixth.

1: Nachtigall--97 E-5 (1952-1953) 1955 SC15 Paez SC15

/169 cont./

491 rivers (*), for example, the Rio Kokiyó, which flows through

[114]

*I did not see anywhere the simplest form of a bridge mentioned by H. Pittier (p. 320) /see the bibliography in the foreign text, p. 326/ in the northern part of Tierradentro, a bridge which people cross hand over hand on a liana stretched across the river.

the Calderun region, there are strong bridges over which even
491 loaded horses may go without trouble. This type of bridge
499 consists of two tree trunks placed a good meter apart, upon which poles are tied crosswise as planking. Only about every fifth planking pole is lashed, while the ones in between are held fast by a longitudinal beam laid over each of the main supports. On either side of the bridge, poles are tied vertically and horizontally as a railing and at the same time serve to support the roofing. The latter is a characteristic of all such bridges (Ills. 194 and 195 /see pp. 285 and 286/). One finds it not only on the bridges in the colonists' region of Tierradentro, but /170/ also, for example, on the bridges of the upper Magdalena River, the region around San Agustín.

The third type of bridge is found in two artfully constructed arched bridges made of bamboo over the Rio Paez at Belalcázar and Avirama (Ills. 191 to 193 and 196 /see pp. 285 and 286/).
● [284] They are both quite similar in construction and, like all the other bridges of the Paez, made without nails or other iron parts, but simply lashed with bast and lianas. For reinforcement, however, two wire cables have now been stretched underneath.
491 Although even the Spaniards at the time of the conquistadors
177 report on the "weak and flexible bamboo bridges" and on the
499 "liana bridges" of Tierradentro (Hernandez, 1944, p. 189), in
[175] the case of the two above-mentioned arched bridges, which are relatively difficult to construct, it seems not to be a matter of an original Paez technique. Indeed, these would be the only suspension bridges of this type in pre-Spanish South America.

1: Nachtigall--253 E-5 (1952-1953) 1955 SC15 Paez SC15

[284] [413] [RP3] 412 415

Fig. 25. Sewed gourd calabash.

Fig. 26. Klafika.

Fig. 27. Wooden plate and spoon.

/Figs. 1-24 on Plates III-X are omitted in the translation./

1: Nachtigall--255 E-5 (1952-1953) 1955 SC15 Paez SC15

286
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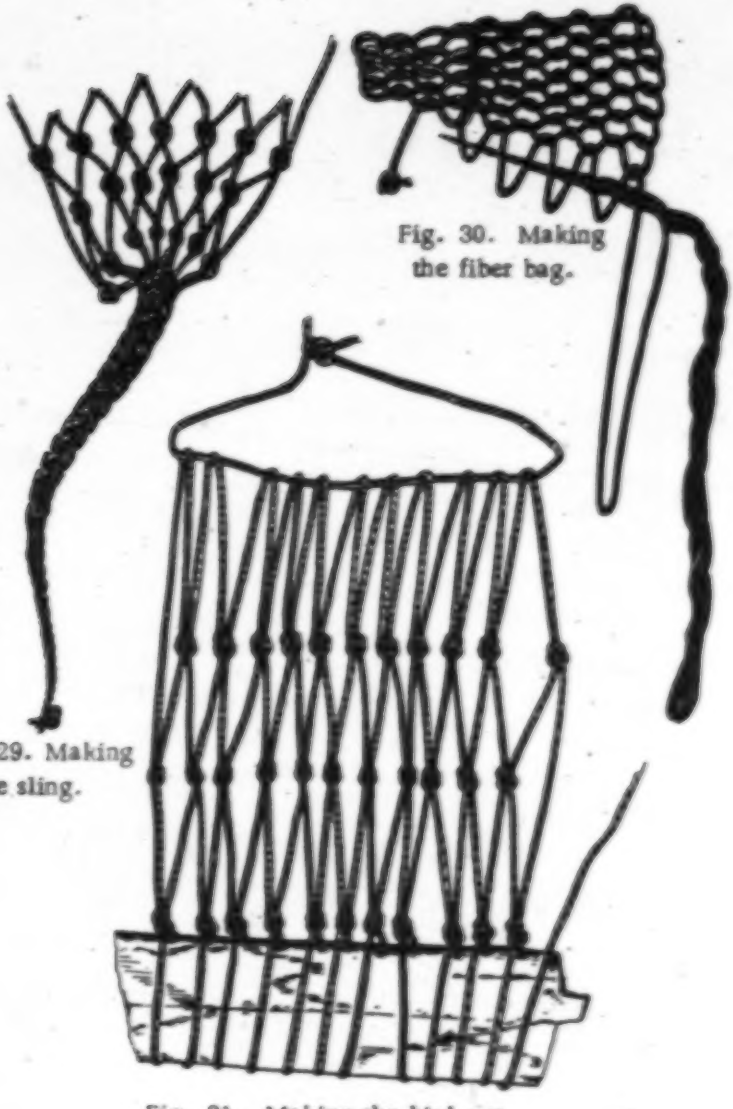

Fig. 30. Making the fiber bag.

Fig. 29. Making the sling.

Fig. 31. Making the bird-net.

1: Nachtigall--256 E-5 (1952-1953) 1955 SC15 Paez SC15

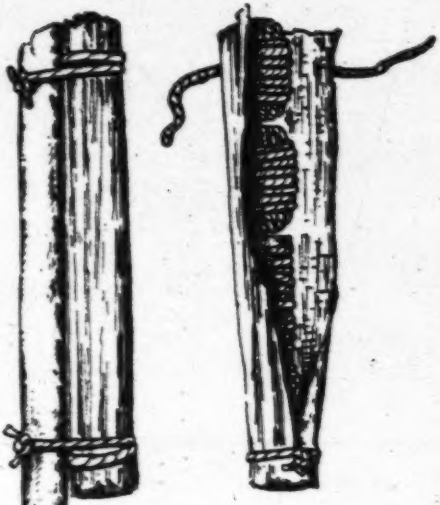

Fig. 32. Fireworks.

Fig. 33. Plaited strip for making the straw hat.

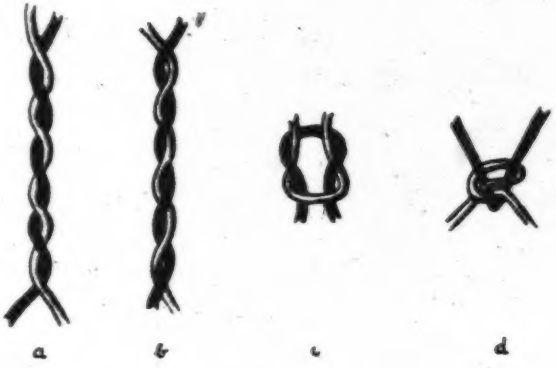

Fig. 34. a = S-twisting b = Z-twisting
c = symmetrical knots d = fish-net knots

1: Nachtigall--258 E-5 (1952-1953) 1955 SC15 Paez SC15

[534]
[284]
→

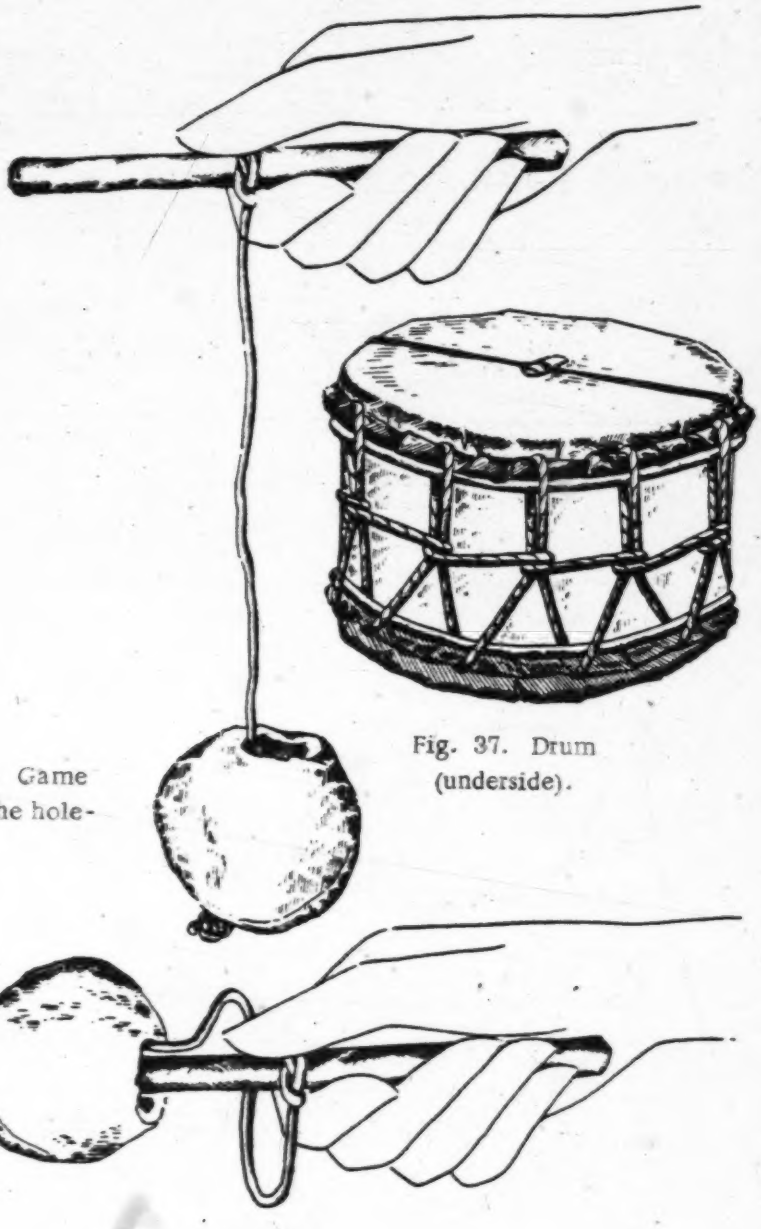

Fig. 36. Game with the hole-ball.

Fig. 37. Drum (underside).

1: Nachtigall--272 E-5 (1952-1953) 1955 SC15 Paez SC15

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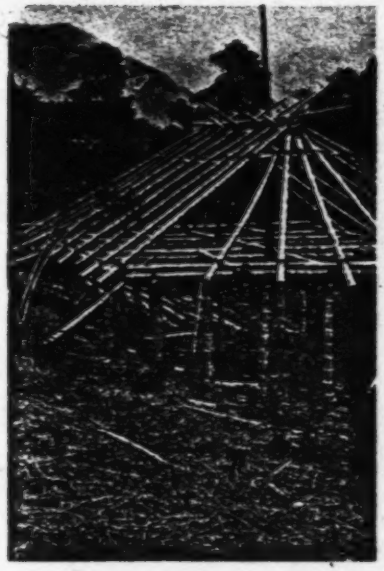
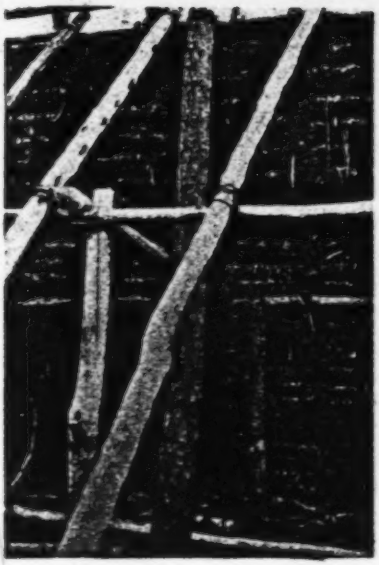
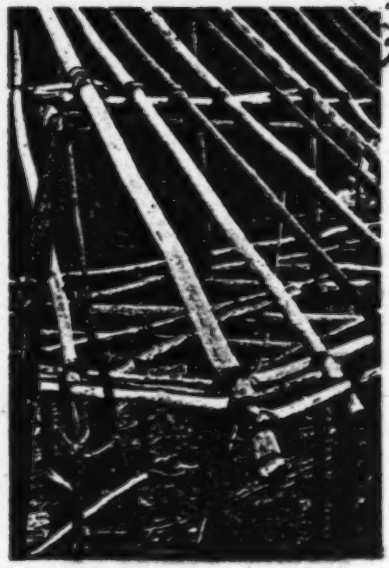


342
284





Ills. 161-164. House construction.